Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. By the present amendment, claim 11 is amended for clarity.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10. (*Canceled*)

Claim 11. (*Currently Amended*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system, comprising:

a microprocessor linked to a payment device, and operating under the control of a multitasking operating system;

mass storage means for storing audio and visual information in compressed form;

digital display means operatively coupled to said mass storage means;

digital audio reproduction means coupled to said mass storage means;

a multitasking operating system for managing the formation of a multimedia environment, the operating system including a library of tools and services integrated in the storage means, the operating system being arranged to associate a task with respective peripheral means and assigning a first priority level to a display task and a second, lower priority level, to an audio task;

two temporary buffers for storing video and audio data, respectively, retrieved from said mass storage means, and for transmitting said video and audio data to the downstream display means and audio reproduction means through respective

decompression means, said buffers being associated with status buffer means arranged to store state data representing activities relating to decompression tasks, said status buffer means being put into an active state if one of the temporary buffers is empty, and if one of the temporary buffers is not empty being put into an inactive state ~~being arrange to determine if the data entered into said buffers have been decompressed and transmitted downstream, and for providing a corresponding time status value~~; and

a scheduling module for the operating system arranged to read said status values and to alternatively feed the ~~two~~ video and audio buffers with said data ~~in an alternating two-phase manner~~, the audio buffer having a size sufficient for storing an amount of data to avoid any lack of data during audio operation by the audio reproduction means, when the display task ~~video data buffer~~ has been triggered based upon its priority level for transmitting video data to the video data buffer.

D1 cont.

Claim 12. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said audiovisual reproduction system is linked, under control of the operating system, to an audiovisual data distribution system via a telecommunications network including a telecommunications modem and telecommunications lines.

Claim 13. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, wherein the operating system includes a priority resolution module and a scheduling module for filling a storage request queue.

Claim 14. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, further comprising a temporary buffer for storage of data from a man/machine interface, and a buffer that indicates the status of the task of the man/machine interface, including a selection of zones on a touch screen, each zone corresponding to a choice among the data displayed on the display means.

D1 cont.

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, wherein the lowest priority task is the task of management by the manger for managing the database for requiring new selections or implementing command settings by remote control.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, further comprising a system operating status file stored on a hard disk, said status including data relating to the insertion of money, addition of a selection to the queue, the end of a selection and data allowing the system to return to a specified location in case of an interruption caused by a fault.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, wherein the display means includes a video monitor for reproduction of images of the audiovisual information and a touch screen for monitoring and assistance on which at least four control panels can be selected, the first control panel for helping customers find and select a desired title, a second control panel for control of the volume, bass, treble or panoramic control of the video monitor, a third control panel for scanning the title database to allow the system manager or owner to examine the database contining the available titles via the audiovisual data distribution network to control and retrieve said titles, and a fourth control panel for providing statistical estimates and calculations relating to the titles.

D1 Cont.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, further comprising a remote control device allowing at least one of audio volume control of the played selections, audio volume control of an auxiliary played source, a microphone start-stop command, a microphone audio volume control, balance control, control of base frequency level, control of treble frequency level, commands to cancel or skip a musical selection, panoramic effects command, including zoom forward and zoom back, and triggering of reset of the software program.

Claim 19. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 11, wherein a management mode module allows recording of system

operating parameters in a file stored in a hard disk in a machine format that cannot be read by the user, the data being backed up on the disk and being reread each time the system is activated.

D1 cont'd.

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) A payment-based audiovisual reproduction system according to claim 19, wherein the system operating parameters file enables fixing the price of a title or number of titles for a predetermined value, the inactivity delay before starting a visual promotional mode, the inactivity delay before starting an auxiliary source, the inactivity delay before starting a selection sampling mode, the location, determined in seconds from the beginning, where the system will be able to start sampling a selection, and the duration in seconds of the sample.